## Listing of the Claims

## 1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying non real-time data transmitted through a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving at a data processor data from a data source of a plurality of data sources; formatting the data to include a data source identifier corresponding to the data source and a system identifier corresponding to the data processor;

transmitting the formatted data to a client site via the communications network; determining the operational status of the data source;

generating a data source status signal including the data source identifier, the data source status signal being generated based on the operational status of the data source; and

transmitting the data source status signal to the client site via the communications network.

- 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes determining whether the data source is operating normally.
- 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving a heartbeat signal from the data source.
  - 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising: generating a system heartbeat signal including the system identifier; and transmitting the system heartbeat signal at a predetermined interval to the client site.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the system heartbeat signal includes a data source heartbeat signal received from the data source.

## 21-29. (Cancelled)

- 30. (Previously Presented) A data collection system comprising:
- a transmitter in communication with a communications network; and
- a data processor in communication with the transmitter, the data processor performing steps comprising:

receiving data from a data source of a plurality of data sources;

formatting the data to include a data source identifier corresponding to the data source and a system identifier corresponding to the data processor;

transmitting via the transmitter the formatted data to a client site via the communications network;

determining the operational status of the data source;

generating a data source status signal including the data source identifier, the data source status signal being generated based on the operational status of the data source; and

transmitting via the transmitter the data source status signal to the client site via the communications network.

- 31. (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30 further comprising a status code generator generating a data source status signal in response to a control signal from the data processor, wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes automatically generating the control signal for the status code generator in response to changes in the operating status of said data source.
- 32. (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30, wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes determining whether the data source is operating normally.

- 33. (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30, wherein the data processor further performs the step of receiving a heartbeat signal from the data source.
- 34. (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30 further comprising a heartbeat generator for generating a system heartbeat signal including the system identifier and transmitting via the transmitter the system heartbeat signal at a predetermined interval to the client site via the communications network.
- 35. (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 34 wherein the system heartbeat signal includes a data source heartbeat signal received from the data source.
- 36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing causing a computer to perform steps comprising:

receiving at a data processor data from a data source of a plurality of data sources;

formatting the data to include a data source identifier corresponding to the data source and a system identifier corresponding to the data processor;

transmitting the formatted data to a client site via a communications network; determining the operational status of the data source;

generating a data source status signal including the data source identifier, the data source status signal being generated based on the operational status of the data source; and

transmitting the data source status signal to the client site via the communications network.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes determining whether the data source is operating normally.

- 38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the computer-readable instructions for performing the further step comprising receiving a heartbeat signal from the data source.
- 39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the computer-readable instructions for performing further steps comprising:

  generating a system heartbeat signal including the system identifier; and transmitting the system heartbeat signal at a predetermined interval to the client site.
- 40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein the system heartbeat signal includes a data source heartbeat signal received from the data source.
  - 41-58. (Cancelled)